



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Quarterly Services Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0607-0907.

Form Number(s): QSS-0(A), QSS-0(E), QSS-1(A), QSS-1(E), QSS-1P(A), QSS-1P(E), QSS-2(A), QSS-2(E), QSS-3(A), QSS-3(E), QSS-4(A), QSS-4(E), QSS-4F(A), QSS-4F(E), QSS-5(A), QSS-5(E), QSS-6(A), QSS-6(E), QSS-7(A), QSS-7(E), QSS-8(A), QSS-8(E), QSS-9(A), QSS-9(E),.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden Hours: 20,900.

Number of Respondents: 23,500.

Average Hours Per Response: 13 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau requests a revision of the current OMB approval of the Quarterly Services Survey (QSS). Beginning in March 2013, with the introduction of a new sample, the QSS will cover all or parts of the following NAICS sectors: Utilities (excluding government owned); Transportation and warehousing

(except rail transportation and postal) services; Information; Finance and insurance (except funds, trusts, and other financial vehicles); Real estate and rental and leasing; Professional, scientific, and technical services; Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services; Educational services (except elementary and secondary schools, junior colleges, and colleges, universities, and professional schools); Health care and social assistance; Arts, entertainment, and recreation; Accommodation; and Other services (except public administration). The QSS provides the most current reliable measures of total revenue and percentage of revenue by class of customer (for selected industries) on a quarterly basis. In addition, the QSS provides the only current quarterly measure of total expenses from tax-exempt firms in industries that have a large not-for-profit component. All respondent data are received by mail, facsimile, telephone, or Internet reporting.

Before the QSS economic indicator existed for the service sector, which accounts for about 53 percent of all economic activity, the only data available were from the Service Annual Survey (SAS) and the five-year Economic Censuses. The QSS was developed to address and provide more up-to-date estimates of services output. Based on this effort, the QSS is a major source for the development of quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and an indicator of short-term economic change.

The total revenue estimates produced from the QSS provide current trends of economic service industry activity in the United States from service providers with paid employees.

In addition to revenue, we also collect total expenses from tax-exempt firms in industries that have a large not-for-profit component. Expenses provide a better measure of the economic activity of these firms. Expense estimates produced by the QSS, in addition to inpatient days and discharges for the hospital industry, are used by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to project and study hospital regulation, Medicare payment adequacy, and other related projects. For select industries in the Arts, entertainment, and recreation sector, the survey produces estimates of admissions revenue.

Beginning in March 2013, with the introduction of a new QSS sample, the QSS plans to provide estimates of revenue for the Accommodation subsector and estimates for interest income, loan fees, fees and commissions, financial planning and investment management, and net gains and losses from brokering for select finance and insurance industries.

We currently publish estimates based on the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). With the introduction of the new QSS sample, we will publish estimates based on the 2007 NAICS. We will continue to publish no later than 75 days after the end of each calendar quarter.

Reliable measures of economic activity are essential to an objective assessment of the need for, and impact of, a wide range of public policy decisions. The QSS

supports these measures by providing the latest estimates of service industry output on a quarterly basis.

Currently, the U.S. Census Bureau collects, tabulates, and publishes estimates to provide, with measurable reliability, statistics on domestic service total revenue, total expenses, and percentage of revenue by class of customer for select service providers. In addition, the QSS produces estimates for inpatient days and discharges for hospitals. In the future, QSS may produce breakdowns of revenue from financial firms. This depends on the quality and amount of data received as well as its reliability and accuracy.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) is the primary Federal user of QSS results. The BEA utilizes the QSS estimates to make improvements to the national accounts for service industries. In the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA), the QSS estimates allow more accurate estimates of both Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) and private fixed investment. For example, recently published revisions to the quarterly NIPA estimates resulted from the incorporation of new source data from the QSS. Revenue estimates from the QSS are also used to produce estimates of gross output by industry that allow BEA to produce a much earlier release of the gross domestic product by industry estimates.

Estimates produced from the QSS are used by the BEA as a component of quarterly GDP estimates. The estimates also provide the Federal Reserve Board (FRB)

and Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) with timely information on current economic performance. All estimates collected from this survey are used extensively by various government agencies and departments on economic policy decisions; private businesses; trade organizations; professional associations; academia; and other various business research and analysis organizations.

The CMS uses the QSS estimates to develop hospital spending estimates in the National Accounts. In addition, the QSS estimates improve their ability to analyze hospital spending trends. They also use the estimates in their healthcare indicator analysis publication; ten-year health spending forecast estimates; and studies in hospital regulation and Medicare policy, procedures, and trends.

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPac) utilizes the QSS estimates to assess payment adequacy in the current Medicare program.

The FRB and the CEA use the QSS information to better assess current economic performance. In addition, other government agencies, businesses, and investors use the QSS estimates for market research, industry growth, business planning and forecasting.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: Quarterly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., Section 182.

OMB Desk Officer: Brian Harris-Kojetin, (202) 395-7314.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0336, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at jjessup@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Brian Harris-Kojetin, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or email (bharrisk@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: June 5, 2012

Glenna Mickelson,

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